

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 15, 2010

National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform  
1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Chairmen Simpson and Bowles,

As the ten co-founders of the Congressional 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment Task Force, a project of the Republican Study Committee, we believe federalism and a return to the proper balance of power between federal and state government are essential components to long-term fiscal reform.

Therefore, we were severely disappointed to read a July 12, 2010 Washington Post article in which one of the co-chairman of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform was quoted as saying: "I don't think you're going to see a lot of devolution coming from us because the states are all broke." We were concerned that this statement seems to indicate that the Commission is not considering a review of federal and state government integration as part of its mandate to propose recommendations to "meaningfully improve the long-run fiscal outlook..." of this nation.

From our perspective, the looming financial crisis facing this nation isn't a reason to avoid questions about federal and state roles in our modern society; to the contrary, the current crisis should compel us towards a renewed consideration of federalism and the proper scope of government in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We believe federalism presents the most efficient way to govern a society and an economy because it assigns government responsibility and power to the level of government is best suited to a particular task. It is premised on the concept that government action is performed most competently at the lowest level possible. The level of government best suited to the task of governing is typically that which is closest to the issue in question. Only by striking the proper balance between federal, state, and local government responsibility will we gain control over our nation's financial future.

In 1794, James Madison, often heralded as the Father of the Constitution, declared on the floor of the House, "The government of the United States is a definite government, confined to specified objects. It is not like the state governments whose powers are more general." One of the biggest problems undermining our nation's financial well-being is that the federal government has assumed responsibilities beyond the powers granted to it under the Constitution.

We strongly urge you to consider systemic reforms that would address the method by which government services are currently delivered to citizens. Such a strategy is a vital component of a commission to identify "policies to improve the fiscal situation in the medium term and to achieve fiscal sustainability over the long run." We can't think of a better time for an informed national debate over the role and scope of government.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share ideas by which federalist proposals can help you achieve your difficult charge. Please contact Cody Stewart in Rep. Bishop's office at 202 225-8411 if you have questions or would like to schedule a meeting time.

Sincerely,



Congressman Rob Bishop (UT-01)



Congressman Jason Chaffetz (UT-02)



Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis (WY-01)



Congressman John Culberson (TX-07)



Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)



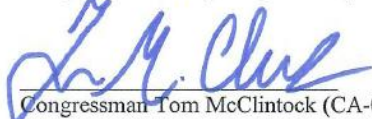
Congressman Mike Conaway (TX-11)



Congressman Scott Garrett (NJ-05)



Congressman Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)



Congressman Tom McClintock (CA-04)



Congressman Doug Lamborn (CO-05)